

## HOW IT HAPPENED

## That the People were Ignored and the Politicians "nominated" Our Present State Senator.

## "Mass Conventions" Forced in Counties Where Primary Elections had been Ordered.—In One County the Central Committee Appointed the Delegates.

It is passing strange that the same gang of political freebooters who secured for Senator Marshall a so-called "nomination" by resorting to all the rotten methods known to the convention system of naming candidates, should now throw up their hands in horror and yell "Snap!" "Usurpation!" "Louisiana Returning Board!" "Trickery!" "Dictator!" and so on, because the congressional committee has advised that the selection of the next congressional candidate on the Democratic ticket shall be submitted to the people direct.

The story of that senatorial "nomination" was never told. The "practical politicians" and their organs were content to let the matter rest as quietly as possible. Occasionally some "sorehead" would express dissatisfaction, but he was severely ridiculed and his loyalty to the "party" was questioned. And it is left for the KICKER to turn the light of day on that district of all dirty political transactions. This senatorial district was then composed of six counties—Dunklin, Stoddard, Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid and Pemiscot. The last re-appointment dropped Dunklin.

The affair opened by the enemies of Mr. Vandiver calling and holding a very "snap" mass convention at Kennett, in Dunklin county, in December, 1899. This was done before there had been a meeting of the congressional committee, and without their knowledge and, therefore, without authority. Mr. Vandiver was in Washington, but was notified by friends in time to reach Kennett for the "mass convention," and it is said that even then Mr. Vandiver received a handsome majority of the votes, but was counted out and the county given to Virgil McKay, a "home man" who is associated with the Honorable Wm. Hunter in the real estate business. For some reason a country doctor named Powell was named by the same convention as a candidate for State senator. The only reason that appears on the surface is that Dr. Powell lives in a thickly settled community in which he stands very high, and that by putting him up as a "stalking-horse" they could catch votes for their "home man"—McKay.

The same influences that robbed the voters of Dunklin county of their choice for congress next began operations in Scott county. As quietly as possible a meeting of the central committee was called. In order that there should be no "hitch" in the program, it was observed that several "influential" citizens were present by proxy—leaving the real combatants at home. Heretofore the central committee has always held its meetings in the courthouse, but on this occasion it was held in the county treasurer's office—a little 12x14 room where the committee had scarcely standing room, and where there was certainly no surplus space for outsiders. But by inquiry the writer managed to learn that the committee had ordered township meetings for the second Saturday following, to select delegates to a county convention to meet at Benton on the second Monday following, to select delegates to the next congressional and senatorial conventions—NOT YET CALLED.

The writer thought the proceedings rather queer and awaited the discussions that would likely follow in the county press. The writer had sold his "Newsboy" and as matters then stood, every paper in the county was under the "influence." He expected some head-lines and columns of praise for their "home candidate" in every paper in the county. But he was disappointed. Not an organ "whimpered." The usual notice signed by the chairman of the committee was the only mention of the meeting, or of the approaching convention! THEY DIDN'T WANT THE PEOPLE TO FIND OUT THAT IT WAS TO BE HELD!

In the meantime Joe Russell and John E. Marshall drove up to the courthouse and consulted our "practical politicians." A little later it was hinted that Mr. Russell was being "urged" for congress and would carry Scott county. Here the writer discovered a bug under the chip—about the size of a gold bug—and notified Congressman Vandiver of what was going on. In a few days

Mr. Vandiver was on the ground and went direct to Mr. Russell and requested of him that if he is really a candidate that he so announce himself. Mr. Russell evidently feared the result and announced that he was not a candidate. But the news of Mr. Russell's withdrawal had not spread into the country districts, and on the day of the township convention dozens of the friends of Mr. Russell from the Sandyswoods—with whom he had camped and hunted quail—drove into Benton to support him. They were good farmers and honest farmers, and were not aware that they were wanted to carry out the plans of "practical politicians."

With the Scott county convention the Russell boom for congress ended, and all the energy of the politicians was then put into saving Marshall for the State senate. At the Scott county convention the politicians, landlords and capitalists worked overtime in talking "home man," "harmony in the party," "county pride," etc., until the writer—who lead the opposition and who found that the delegates were swallowing the taffy of the Marshall forces—while advising against any compromise, agreed to abide by the decision of his friends but refused to take part in any caucus. The enemy came out victorious and Scott county was given to Marshall—although he could not have carried a precinct in it in a primary election.

Next the scene shifted into Stoddard county. Mr. Vandiver knows a few things about politics himself, and was, perhaps, not willing to take any further risks of having any more "dark horses" brought out, so he urged a primary for Stoddard county to take the matter out of the hands of the politicians. That is the first we hear of a primary in a congressional or senatorial race in this district—and it was favored by Mr. Vandiver. The Marshall-Russell forces fought it, and after a hard fight the primary plan carried by a majority of one.

Here we must lose sight of Mr. Russell as a congressional possibility, but Marshall is still on the rack with Stoddard county demanding that he must submit his claims to the people in primary election. From a politician's standpoint, that was his—something had to be done—and it was done. Another meeting of the committee was called and THE ONE MAN CHANGED HIS VOTE, and a mass convention was called to meet at Bloomfield at a time when the roads were impassable for farmers—while the Cotton Belt railroad furnished a special train to bring in the loggers, lumbermen and squatters from the north end of the county to carry the "mass convention" for Marshall. But the congressional primary was allowed to stand.

In the meantime the county committee of New Madrid ordered a "mass convention" held at New Madrid to select delegates to the senatorial convention—NOT YET CALLED. In Pemiscot county township meetings were called for May 12 to select delegates to attend a convention at Caruthersville to select delegates to a senatorial convention—NOT YET CALLED. In Mississippi county a primary was ordered for May 15 for the same purpose.

The manipulators had no doubt of their ability to manipulate the "mass convention" at New Madrid by selecting "leading citizens" who were favorable to Senator Marshall and making no effort to instruct them. And it was so. The New Madrid "convention" was a very tame affair, and only the "right sort" of "business men" were selected, but no effort was made to instruct them.

But in Mississippi and Pemiscot counties the situation was different. Powell, the country doctor, seemed to imagine that the politicians who used him in the Dunklin county convention were really in earnest, and with Marshall's record fresh at hand he had no trouble in stirring up quite a mass in Pemiscot and Mississippi counties, where the people were to have a show at the selection of the delegates.

This put the practical politicians to figuring. They figured that if this country doctor carried Mississippi and Pemiscot he would, with the vote of Dunklin county, have a majority. Such a thing was not to be thought of. They could not afford

to take such chances. And they were equal to the emergency. They got behind the senatorial committee and had a meeting called for about the middle of March. When the committee met it called the senatorial convention for April 5!

What next? Why, Mississippi county, which had declared for a primary to be held on May 15 had to either select delegates by convention or not be represented at all! They had to select delegates by "mass convention" at Charleston, where convention manipulators are plentiful. In Pemiscot county there was no time to do anything and when the senatorial convention met at Bloomfield to "nominate" Senator Marshall, two men appeared who said they had been appointed by THE PEMISCOT COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT THAT COUNTY! And these "delegates" were recognized—and they voted for Marshall!

Think of such proceedings, reader! The right to select delegates taken from the people and "usurped" by a committee controlled by designing politicians! And the very men who were responsible for these shameful transactions, and the men who expressed no words of condemnation, are the very men who are today decrying the proceedings at Thayer.

## Scott County Bank Robbed.

## The Vault and Safe Blown Open and \$4,183.40 Taken by the Robbers.

Guests at the Boyce Hotel Watched the Robbers, but There Was Not a Gun in the House.

At day break, Saturday morning, Frank Hill arrived in Benton to announce that the Scott County Bank, at Morley, had been successfully robbed. He came to notify the sheriff and County Clerk McPheeters—the latter being president of the bank.

Sheriff Henderson was absent, having taken Elmo Beauchamp to the penitentiary. Mr. McPheeters and Wm. Hunter accompanied Mr. Hill back to Morley. Arriving there a frightful condition of affairs confronted them. The vault and safe had been blown open; money and papers were scattered about the floor, and the front of the building was badly wrecked.

Four explosions were necessary for the robbers to complete their work. The Boyce House is just opposite the bank, and at the first explosion Mrs. Bucklin, who is conducting the hotel, aroused her guests and informed them that something was wrong; she also rang the hotel bell to arouse the citizens. Among the guests were Major Ward, a stockholder of the bank, and Albert Hawkins, of the Peavine route. They could see the robbers at work but had no weapons with which to make an attack.

Behind a tree, near the rear of the hotel stood one of the robbers with a gun, in a position to watch Cashier John Hunter's residence. Mrs. Hunter heard the explosions, and first thought of cannon crackers, but later on concluded that something was wrong and awoke her husband. By the time Mr. Hunter reached the bank it was all over and the robbers had disappeared—and there seems to be no clue.

The books and notes were found in good condition, but some railroad bonds, bank stock certificates and some other papers were very much damaged. The books showed that there were \$4,600 in the bank at the time of the robbery. Among the debris and papers on the floor were found \$335 in gold, \$74 in silver, \$4.85 in nickels and \$2.75 in pennies. The robbers got \$1,800 in silver, \$900 in gold and about \$2,000 in currency. On the morning before the robbery the bank had expressed \$2,000 to St. Louis.

A conspicuous show card, which probably amused the burglars, hangs on the wall and reads: "This bank is insured against burglary." The bank carried \$5,000 insurance against burglary, which will very nearly cover the loss. The damage to the safe, vault and building is estimated at somewhere near \$1,000. The weight of the gold and silver carried off by the robbers was nearly one hundred pounds.

## Marriage License Granted.

The following marriage licenses have been issued since our last report: Herman Manlove and Miss Lucy Littlepage; Jas. Bowman and Miss Oma Stoll; L. Morris and Miss Eva Ferguson; J. Wilson and Mrs. Frances Harrison; Arthur Brunel and Miss Mildred E. Hampton.

If you concluded it is too high to keep your mules, C. & A. J. Matthews, Oran, will pay you all they are worth.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

## Houck Sells His Perryville Road—Inspectors Pass Over the Peavine.

That something is going to happen in railroad circles in Southeast Missouri is quite evident. It seems that the Southern Missouri and Arkansas routes are shortly to connect St. Louis and Memphis. The following press dispatch appeared in Monday's Post-Dispatch:

"CHESTER, ILL., Jan. 6.—The St. Genevieve branch of the Chester & Perryville Railroad has been sold by Louis Houck, owner of the road, to the corporation building the new St. Louis & Memphis road, for \$140,000. It forms a part of the proposed line to be built from St. Louis to Memphis on the west side of the river. The price received by Houck is regarded by railroad men as exceptionally good, as that part of his road was practically worthless, as far as paying dividends was concerned and will be valuable to the new company only in the right of way and shorter privileges it entails."

While this was going on in Perry county a special train carried a party of railroad men over Houck's system from Cape Girardeau to Caruthersville last week, and it is not at all improbable that by fall a direct line from St. Louis to Memphis, on the west side of the river will be completed. Caruthersville already has railroad connection with Memphis, and as soon as through trains are put on between here and Caruthersville we can hop on the Peavine here and wake up at Memphis.

## If the Brewers Could Issue Passes.

Commissioner John M. Allen, formerly known as "Private" John Allen, member of the House from Tupio, Miss., was in Washington a few days ago to recover from the arduous duties imposed upon him as a member of the St. Louis exposition. At the war department he greeted Col. Cassels, a well-known attorney, and laughed that little John Allen laugh that is always just ahead of a story.

"You see, it was this-a-way. Cassels took me over to the Scottish dinner at Philadelphia, and I was asked to make a speech. What I said ran about like this: 'My apology for being here is that Cassels brought me. If you do not already know it, Cassels spends most of his time loafing about Washington stirring up prejudice against the Pennsylvania railroad company. You see how it works. Mr. Bartholdt, a very earnest, industrious and devoted German member of the House from Missouri, made a convincing speech in behalf of bill to reduce the tax on beer. When it came to vote he had not sufficient support to get that very righteous bill through. Next day a bill came up to give about a fourth of the city of Washington to the Pennsylvania railroad company, with a couple of millions to induce them to take the property. In spite of Cassels' efforts it went through a-humming. Mr. Bartholdt stood at the door of the House after the bill passed, with the perspiration streaming off his hair.'

"Meln Gott, Allen," he said, 'if the brewers could only issue passes.'"  
—New York Times.

## How Birds Dress Wounds.

Many birds, particularly those that are prey for sportsmen, possess the faculty of skillfully dressing wounds. Some will even set bones, taking their own feathers to form the proper bandages. A French naturalist writes that on a number of occasions he has killed woodcocks that were, when shot, convalescing from wounds previously received.

In every instance he found the old injury neatly dressed with down plucked from the stem feathers and skillfully arranged over the wound, evidently by the long beak of the bird. In some instances a solid plaster was thus formed, and in other bandages had been applied to wounds or broken limbs.

One day he killed a bird that evidently had been severely wounded at some recent period. The wound was covered and protected by a sort of net-work of feathers, which had been plucked by the bird from its own body and so arranged as to form a plaster, completely covering and protecting the wounded surface. The feathers were fairly netted together, passing alternately under and above each other and forming a textile fabric of great protective power.—Youth's Chronicle.

## Another Record for Missouri.

The most remarkable family discovered by the census enumerator was at a little village named Mary's Home, in Miller county, Mo., about thirty miles from Jefferson City. The enumerator in that district reports that he found a Mrs. Henry Smith, wife of a storekeeper, 32 years old, who, during a brief marriage of seven years had presented her devoted husband with sixteen children. Only one of them was a "solitaire." There were two pairs of twins, two sets of triplets and one quintet, five sturdy boys at a birth averaging six pounds in weight. They are all alive and hearty. Their mother is as active and strong as any woman in the state.—Ex.

## Notice to Republicans.

A meeting of the Republican Central Committee is hereby called to meet at the courthouse, in Benton, on Wednesday, January 15, 1902, to select a chairman and transact such other business as may come up.

CHAS. L. PROFFIT, Sec.

## Oran News Notes.

The installation, entertainment and supper by the members of the Tribe of Ben Hur brought many people out Tuesday evening. After the installation of officers the entertainment opened with a recitation entitled "The Chariot Race" well rendered by Miss Carrie Davis, and followed by a vocal solo, "The Harvest Time," by Miss May Myers. The drama, "Captured," was splendidly rendered by Mrs. Melton, Prof. Duckworth, Fred Woods, the Misses Lora Forester, Ann Finley and Emma Miller and Wm. Zimmerman and George Lyons. The "Yankee Duet" played by Rex Cunningham and George Lyons and Miss Della Fink, was well rendered and much enjoyed by all. The oyster supper that followed the entertainment was well patronized. The evening's receipts amounted to about fifty dollars.

The musicals at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Clemons Wednesday evening was a pleasant affair. The parents of the pupils and the three judges—Mrs. W. H. Stubblefield and the Misses Pearl Mattheis and Leah O'Brien—were present and the pupils, without exception, acquitted themselves creditably. The prize was awarded to Miss Clara Dirnberger. Miss Mamie Friend displayed a natural talent for music which it will only take time to develop. Little Jennie Metz performed exceedingly well for her opportunities, and had she a piano at home on which to practice she would soon surprise both parents and teacher. Miss Edith Jenkins who, a year ago, had never taken a lesson, rendered "Silver Bells" quite well. Mrs. Ringo played the "Folk of the Frogs," while Mrs. Ferguson's answers to questions in music were prompt and correct. The Misses Jennie Clemons, Winnie Rockwell and Edith Harris were not contestants for the prize, but rendered their parts well. After partaking of refreshments consisting of cake and cream, all took their little musical souvenir and departed.

Uncle John Mier, one of Scott county's oldest citizens, died at his home on the farm, near Bleda Friday, of typhoid fever, aged seventy years. Requiem mass and funeral services were conducted by Father Helmreich at the Catholic church, Saturday, and the large attendance was evidence of the high esteem in which Mr. Mier was held among his neighbors.

FOR SALE—A good farm of 192 acres—100 acres in cultivation. Good 2-story frame dwelling, granary, barn, plenty of good water and all modern conveniences. Within 30 minutes' drive of either Oran, New Hamburg or Benton. For further information apply at the KICKER office.

Prof. Scott of Lovelaceville, Ky., may teach a class in vocal music the latter part of January. He has had superior advantages in having taken lessons in both Germany and England. A rare opportunity for those desiring to take lessons.

Wade Reid and Miss Ruth Woods were married at the residence of R. E. Hollingshead on Thursday of last week. They will make their home on the farm and we wish them much happiness.

Frank Bryans, son of E. L. Bryans, held the lucky number that drew the combination manure and toilet set at Hinkle & Dierbergers on Christmas day. It was No. 1179.

Father Klein, of Kelso, visited Father Helmreich Monday, and Father Furling, of New Madrid, passed through for New Hamburg on the same day.

Misses Lillian Finley, Ella Hamilton, Beulah Tuck, and Master Emmett Lyons each received a medal for regular attendance at the Baptist Sunday school.

The railroad surveyors are again at work and have so generally changed the original line that it's difficult to guess in what direction they will go next.

Rev. and Mrs. Manley are spending a few days here among friends. The former preached entertainingly Sunday.

Roy Williams, the popular station agent at Kelso, visited relatives and friends here during the past week.

Timber for the new belfry at the Catholic church is on the ground awaiting the carpenters.

Miss Verne Harrison, who is visiting Mrs. Robt. Query, will return to her home soon.

The two children of Mr. and Mrs. Grace, who were so sick, are convalescent.

The Misses Matthews, of Sikeston, are visiting Mrs. W. H. Stubblefield.

A good second-hand piano for sale, cheap. Apply to the KICKER.

## He Didn't Buy the Diamond.

"Will you please examine that diamond," said a man who had stepped into a jewelry store, "and tell me what you think of it? If it is a good stone I think I will buy it."

The jeweler took the gem, which was unset, and looked at it critically for a moment. Then, in confident tones, he said: "Well to tell you the truth, that isn't a very good stone. It hasn't much fire; it is badly cut, and there is something here that looks very much like a flaw." Then he held the diamond under a microscope and examined it carefully, finally observing: "No, isn't exactly a flaw, but I shouldn't call it a perfect stone. Now, if you want something really fine, I have here—"

"Excuse me," the other man interrupted; "I don't think I'll buy a diamond to-day. This is a stone that one of your assistants let me take on Saturday on approval. I deposited \$3 on it. Please let me have my money, and we will declare the deal off."—London Tit-Bits.

## Blodgett.

Miss Barbara Lemons, former cashier for B. F. Marshall Mar. Co. left for St. Louis Monday, where she will attend The Barnes Business College.

The remains of Logan Fruchte, a supposed tramp who died here Christmas week, will be disinterred, and shipped to his sister at St. Louis.

Mr. A. E. Stocking has resigned the cashiership of the Blodgett Bank, and will take charge of The Peoples Bank, at Charleston.

Oscar Fuller left for Dexter Wednesday, having satisfactorily completed the brick work of the bank building.

Charley Johns, is down with a severe spell of pneumonia but is some better at present writing.

James Baty was on the sick list the first of the week, but is able to attend to business at present.

Prosecuting Attorney Kelley, and Hon. Marsh Arnold, were in town Tuesday, on business.

C. & A. Matthews, Oran, are paying high prices for stock. Sell them your mules.

Floyd Wike, returned from Berry Hill, where he had been visiting his parents.

Dick Berry, collector for Deering Haverester Co. was here the first of the week.

Our butcher, Jake Wilhelm, and Mrs. Frances Stobaugh, were married Tuesday.

J. H. May our bustling barber, went to Morley Tuesday.

Rev. Howie of Ellis Grove Ill. Preached here Sunday.

C. L. Stubbs new dwelling is now almost completed.

Lewis Hunter, of Morley, was in Blodgett Tuesday.

D. Bryant is full fledged insurance agent.

W. J. Rodgers went to Cairo Tuesday.

## At Kelso.

Several important business changes are to take place in the very near future. The Grand Leader is closing out its stock and Mr. Wigdor hopes to be able to get out of business by the middle of February. The building occupied by the Grand Leader has been rented by A. Bandendistel and is to be occupied as a hardware store. Herman Grossman has rented the postoffice building and will put in a stock of goods soon, and the postoffice will be moved to the Mrs. Logel building. C. J. Rush has concluded that Kelso is a pretty good place after all and will not go out of business just yet.

Farmers here are pleased with the increase in the price of wheat and are inclined to believe that the KICKER was right when it predicted that wheat would go beyond the dollar mark before another harvest.

Martin Weismuller, who spent the holidays at home, has returned to Quincy, Ill., where he is studying for the priesthood.

Mrs. John Logel and Mrs. John Scherer closed the old year by presenting to their husbands a big boy each on the last day of the year.

Joseph Hess, who had his feet severely frozen during the cold spell, is again able to be up, but his feet are in a very bad condition.

Parties having sacks belonging to A. Bandendistel are requested to return them at once, as he must make settlement.

Leo Diebold has opened up a sort of machine shop in which he has turning-lathes for both wood and iron.

Carpenters are at work building a neat cottage for Albert Mantz—and Albert don't intend to batch, either.

Don't sell your mules until you get a bid on them from C. & A. J. Matthews, Oran.

August Dohogne, of near Bleda, was here visiting his brother-in-law, Jos. Ziegler.

Mrs. Peter Goshie has been quite sick, but is said to be improving.

## Commerce.

Dr. Roy Frazer came over from Benton Saturday and hung out a yellow flag, just to let the folks know that Gus Kuffenger was entertaining a genuine case of small-pox that his brother, Ed, brought over with him from Essex. While here Coroner Frazer also investigated the death of the infant child of Bessie Scott (colored), which Miss Scott claims to have crushed in her sleep. Coroner's jury decided that cause of death was to them unknown.

Chas. Beattie happened to the misfortune of falling a tree across both his legs Monday. After being pinned for half an hour he was rescued by a Mr. Brotherton and Cy Lomax, who loaded him on a wagon and brought him home. He is doing as well as could be expected. One leg is fractured between the ankle and knee joint.

It is reported that the wheat crop was considerably damaged by the recent cold snap, but it is altogether probable that the damage is considerably overestimated and that a little mild weather will bring forth a more favorable impression.

Some of our young folks slipped in on Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Stubblefield's other evening and enjoyed a pleasant party.

Miss Lizzie Anderson sat dinner for some of her friends Tuesday.

River channel clear of ice. No boats running.

Mrs. Bull, of St. Louis, is here visiting her son, Oran, and friends.

Miss Maud Edgar, of Arcadia, is the guest of Miss Birdie Moore.

J. R. Matthews was home to see the folks last week.

## At New Hamburg.

Nothing much out of the ordinary has happened during the week. The most important occurrence was the marriage of Ewalt Hamm, of East Prairie, to Mrs. Veronica Bowen, of New Hamburg, Tuesday. The ceremony was performed by Father Furlong, while Father Furlong, of New Madrid, celebrated mass. After the ceremony the newly married couple, accompanied by Father Furlong, went to the home of Charles Hamm, near Kelso, where a nice dinner awaited them and a pleasant day was spent.

After standing hitched to a post from morning until late at night Saturday, Joe Heisserer's horse disappeared and was supposed to have been stolen. The next morning the horse was found grazing in the Thos. Bek neighborhood, west of the Kelso, and the faithful dog was still with the horse.

Our farmers are now putting in their spare time hauling logs to Dirnberger's mill to have lumber sawed for a permanent cook room and dining hall at the picnic grounds.

The KICKER's idea of the public ownership of the railroads seems to meet with much approval here.

A big boy of Mr. and Mrs. John Spaulding was baptised Joseph Lucius Tuesday.

School opened the new year with a full attendance.

A. S. McCulloh, agent, for the Prudential Life Insurance Company, died at Cairo Monday.

## AROUND-ABOUT.

"Rockview" is the name of the new postoffice established on the Cotton Belt railroad in the northern part of the county. The place was first known as the rock quarry, then Stoney Point, and now is Rockview. A fine country surrounds the place to the north and west, and Nick Menz has quite a neat store there.

On his way from Vandiver, last week, Chas. F. Bonfomel abandoned the Peavine special about two miles south of Morley and walked to Benton. He arrived here about eighteen hours ahead of the train he abandoned.

Young Ab. Adams was tried by a jury at Blodgett, Tuesday, and fined three dollars for taking the lap robes from the bargies on the night of Webster Davis speaking at Benton.

The Peavine has changed her time for the afternoon trip leaving Mottshouse just after the West-bound "cat" train and arriving at Benton at 6:42—sometimes.

The first man you meet who goes to blowing about "prosperity" arrest him. The chances are that you will capture one of the Morley bank robbers.

Perhaps the finest buggy in the county is owned by Father Helmreich, of Oran. It is a beauty and cost about two hundred dollars.

Rev. Helmreich and Ed. L. Miller of Oran, and Nick Menz, of Rockview, were visitors at the KICKER office Wednesday.

Members of our town board are talking about street improvements. A little sand on the gravel walks wouldn't be bad.

Uncle Jack Dowell now has charge of the rural delivery and Leo Heisserer has gone to Essex to "grow up with the country."

Chas. E. Bonfomel, of Bird's Point, came up to Benton, Tuesday, to spend a few days with parents and friends.

N. O. Ellis and John Watson, of Commerce township, were in Benton Tuesday wearing mighty good clothes.

Frank C. Miller came up from Essex Tuesday. He expresses himself as well pleased with his new location.

Vincent Heisserer and Father Moeing, of New Hamburg, were visitors at Benton Monday.

George Mier, of Bleda, was in Benton, Thursday, shaking hands with old acquaintances.

A. N. Ellis, of Commerce, and Jos. Strack, of Kelso, were at the county seat Monday.

J. W. Resler and wife returned from their visit to Fredericktown Sunday.

Della Smith, niece of Aunt Polly Smith, has a severe case of pneumonia.

Rev. Maddox, of Oran, was in Benton Thursday.

Sheriff Henderson returned from Jefferson City Sunday.

Ed. Miller, of Oran, was a visitor at Benton Tuesday.

Charley Bertrand went to the Cape on business Tuesday.

## Congressional Primary

At the meeting of the democratic central committee of this district held last Friday in Jefferson City it was determined to hold a primary election in the various counties of this district on April 5th next, to nominate a candidate for congress. About a month ago a primary election was called in Southern Missouri district represented by W. D. Vandiver. For years primaries have been the methods of nominating the candidate in the district represented by Champ Clark. Last year the same plan was adopted in the Charleston county district represented by W. W. Bucker and in the district in Southeast Missouri represented by Ed Robb.

The lack of satisfaction of the convention method of nomination is causing the primary to be very generally adopted not only in county politics, but in senatorial and congressional districts also. It is said that in at least eight congressional districts this year the nomination will be by primary election.—Columbia Herald.